Water Quality and Public Health

Topics that Need to be Part of the Conversation

- Individual wells (with 1 - 4 connections): after meeting developer parameters, things could change, but these wells are not monitored
- Disadvantaged communities do not have potable water
- Saltwater intrusion into Delta from the Bay
- Fiscal challenges: Unfunded mandates (e.g. arsenic) and struggle to pay for new required treatments
- Sediment from upper watersheds, especially from fires and timber operations
- Toxins into urban aquifers (USTs, dry cleaning/perchlorate)
- Affordable means of treating surface water (especially small communities): technology is evolving, state is withdrawing support, rate increases are cost prohibitive
- Look at history of water quality to detect trends
- The past may not be an accurate guide to the future.
- Vulnerability/risk assessment
- Distributed treatment – reduced operation and maintenance costs
- Land Use: development approved before water quality and quantity are assured; no repercussions.
- Desal: use of desal for brine; issue of brine waste stream
- Methyl-mercury
- Pesticides
- Dissolved oxygen
- Temperatures in upper watersheds; fisheries
- Better information about quality of greywater/rainwater and public health impacts
- Permitting requirements for stormwater and flood flows
- Delivering water to Southern California

Deliverables/Who to Involve

- Comprehensive water quality report at regional or county level
    - Public Health Officers; Cooperative Extension; Department of Public Health
    - Water Purveyors; Regional Water Boards; State and Federal Agencies
    - Entities receiving state funds for water projects, should be required to have a section on water quality in final reports.
- Electronic data transfer for well samples, similar to GeoTracker
- Consolidating water quality data – map of California showing arsenic, perchlorate issues (GIS). Could raise concerns about property values for participants
- CEDEN: California Environmental Date Exchange Network
- Perchlorate testing – needs initiative for waiver